DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 333 067 UD 028 068

AUTHOR Zweigenhaft, Richard L.; Domhoff, G. William
TITLE Blacks in the White Establishment? A Study of Race and Class in America.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-300-04788-6
PUB DATE 91
NOTE 207p.
AVAILABLE FROM Yale University Press, 92A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520 ($27.50).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Black Achievement; *Black Students; Boarding Schools; Educational Innovation; *Outcomes of Education; Questionnaires; *Racial Identification; Secondary Education; *Social Mobility; *Social Status; Student Attitudes
IDENTIFIERS *A Better Chance Inc

ABSTRACT

This follow-up study of black graduates of A Better Chance (ABC) concludes that race is a more important factor than class in the personal and social identity of blacks. ABC was an innovative program launched in 1963 by 16 independent secondary schools to recruit and prepare minority group students for entry into exclusive boarding schools, elite colleges and universities, and ultimately positions of power and prestige in U.S. society. A representative sample of 38 black graduates was interviewed twenty years after graduation about their experiences in the program and its effects on their interpersonal relationships and careers. ABC negated the usual social-psychological dialectic between the powerful and the powerless by initiating black students into a new social and psychological identity that overcame the effects of stigmatization and any inclinations toward an oppositional identity. Even though class has become more important to ABC graduates and the fact that they are educated professionals is central to their social identity, the importance of race has not diminished. Though they were more middle class than they had been in style and manner, they were not less black. Although the ABC graduates have acquired the education, style, and social connections of the upper class, they are still excluded from the power elite of the corporate United States. A description of the interview sample and the interview questionnaire are appended. (FMW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****